

Accident No.: DCA13FR014
Accident Type: Transit-Rail Train Collision
Location: Forest Park, Illinois
Date: September 30, 2013

Preliminary Report

The information in this report is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected during the course of the investigation.

On Monday, September 30, 2013, at 7:42 a.m., a collision occurred between Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) train 110 and four unattended CTA railcars at the Harlem-Congress Station on the CTA Blue Line. One car derailed. No serious injuries were reported; however, two CTA employees, including the train operator, and 33 passengers were transported to local hospitals; they were later released.

About 7:38 a.m., four unattended transit railcars with neither an operator nor passengers rolled out of the Forest Park Yard in Forest Park, Illinois. The railcars rolled northward onto the southbound main track toward the Harlem-Congress Station. Based upon a preliminary review of the event recorder data, the unattended railcars were traveling 25 mph just before reaching the Harlem-Congress Station.

At 7:41 a.m., CTA train 110, which was operating with eight railcars, was stopped as scheduled at the Harlem-Congress Station. At 7:42 a.m., the four unattended CTA railcars struck the stopped CTA train.

CTA train 110 and the unattended railcars were designed for multiple unit operation. Electrical power was provided by an outside third rail. Train movements on the Blue Line are controlled by a traffic control system, which consist of wayside signal indications and in-cab signals that are located in the train operator's cab.

Initial property damage was estimated at \$6.4 million. At the time of the accident, the conditions were 70°F, sunny, and clear.

The parties to the investigation include the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), CTA, the Regional Transportation Authority, the Village of Forest Park Police Department, and the Amalgamated Transit Union-Local 308.

On October 4, 2013, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued two urgent safety recommendations (R-13-034 and R-13-035) to the CTA. The recommendations address the need for redundant protection to prevent unintended train movements on the CTA system. The NTSB also issued one safety recommendation (R-13-036) to the FTA to advise all transit properties to review their operating and maintenance procedures for stored, unoccupied cars.